



The Sampler

January 22, 2016

The Sampler is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program.

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Web Highlights

This month's featured lake website is [Silver Lake Association](#), Chesham and Nelson, NH

[New Information Calls Didymo's "Invasive" Status into Question](#)

[Warmest Christmas Ever Encourages Summer Sports](#)

[Human Activities Trigger Hypoxia in Freshwaters Around the Globe](#)

[Let It Snow! The Science of Winter](#)

Upcoming Events

[NHANRS Annual Conference](#)
Friday, January 29, 2016
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Grappone Conference Center
70 Constitution Ave.
Concord, NH 03301

[2016 N.H. Water and Watershed Conference](#)
Friday, March 18, 2016
Plymouth State University
Plymouth, NH 03264

[2016 Conference of the New England Association of Environmental Biologists](#)

Practice Ice Safety in 2016!

On the heels of a warm December when lakes and ponds in New Hampshire have typically iced-in, we're still waiting, at the end of January, for the "big lake" Winnepesaukee to be iced over. This highlights the importance of ice safety in 2016. Whether you want to ice fish, skate, snowshoe, or snowmobile, you'll need to be a bit more careful.



Ice Cover at Hawkins Pond in Center Harbor, early January 2016
Photo courtesy of Robert Nichols

The NH Fish and Game Department and NH DES respond to report of vehicles through the ice every year, and this not only presents personal safety issues, but could also impact the lake environment. NH Fish and Game recently posted [Ride Safe on Your Snowmobile!](#) outlining safety tips for snowmobilers on the ice this winter. To learn more about lake ice visit [lakeice.org](#) where you can learn virtually everything you need to know about the science and hazards of lake ice and what to do if you happen to fall through the ice. For anglers, NH Fish and Game also produced the [Safety on the Ice](#) brochure.

You'll also want to be cautious around dock de-icers as they create an area of unstable ice. The [Lake Sunapee Protective Association](#) and [Squam Lakes Association](#) have great educational resources about dock de-icers. Whatever the reason for being out on the lakes this winter, be safe and enjoy!

New Ice-In and Ice-Out Reporting Tool

VLAP is pleased to announce a new tool to report lake ice-in and ice-out dates. The new system is called nFORMS and is a [State of New Hampshire Online Form System](#). VLAP began tracking Lake ice-in and ice-out dates in 2011 as there was no central repository

[\(NEAEB\)](#)

March 23-26, 2016
Samoset Resort On The
Ocean
Rockport, ME 04856

Grants

[Healthy Watersheds
Consortium Grant](#)

U.S. Endowment for Forestry
and Communities, Inc.

[Webinar for more](#)

[information](#): January 26,
2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Grant Deadline: March 14,
2016

Limno Lingo

Rafts (algal): Thick mats of algae floating on the water's surface, submerged in the water column, or located on top of the sediment. They can consist of macroalgae such as seaweed, or of microscopic cyanobacteria filaments which aggregate together in a parallel fashion forming "rafts" that can be visible with the naked eye.

for this information in New Hampshire. Many New Hampshire lakes have historical ice out records dating back to the early 1900's, Lakes Sunapee and Winnepesaukee to the 1880's, but not as much data exists for ice-in records. Tracking both ice-in and ice-out allows the determination of total ice cover days which is another important part of tracking physical, chemical and biological changes to lakes over time. With the erratic weather conditions experienced in recent years, the information can also help track climatological shifts and trends.

VLAP currently has records for approximately 50 New Hampshire lakes and hopes to add additional lakes to the database. To enter your lake's ice-in and ice-out data, utilize the new online form at <https://forms.nh.gov/onlineforms/NHDoIT/?FormTag=NHDES-W-07-028>. Once the data for your lake have been entered, historical records are stored electronically and are available upon request for use in lake association publications, scientific research and articles. For additional information, please contact Sara Steiner, VLAP Coordinator, at sara.steiner@des.nh.gov. If you experience any technical problems with the new form system, including sign-in issues, errors and general instruction on using this system, please contact BusinessOneStop@doit.nh.gov

DIY Lake Science App!

Check out the DIY Lake Science App developed by the University of California-Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science. The free app, currently available only for iPhone and iPad, allows users to investigate and learn about lake and freshwater ecosystems. The app is designed for educators, families, and anyone who wants to learn more about how lakes work and the different ways lakes are impacted by natural processes and human-induced pollution. Learn how to measure water clarity, collect aquatic organisms, identify stormwater runoff, and the basics of lake ecology. You can view the 12 interesting activities with simple step by step instructions and download the app on the [DIY Lake Science webpage](#).

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